

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /188 W

-----055900 190158Z /63

R 180841Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7177

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06750

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, PLOS

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MOFA COMMENTS ON LOS SEVENTH SESSION

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, MOFA LOS DIVISION DIRECTOR KUME EXPRESSED AT LENGTH HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN WITH COURSE OF EVENTS AT LOS SEVENTH SESSION. ALTHOUGH CONFERENCE'S PROBLEMS HAD BEEN PREDICTABLE, KUME WAS NEVERTHELESS DISHEARTENED THAT AFTER THREE WEEKS, CONFERENCE HAD NOT YET BEGUN TO BREAK NEW GROUND ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. IN PARTICULAR, MOFA SAW FAILURE TO SETTLE PRESIDENCY QUESTION THROUGH CONSENSUS, ULTIMATELY REQUIRING DIVISIVE VOTE, AS OMINOUS PORTENT FOR CONFERENCE'S FUTURE. JAPANESE, KUME STATED, GENERALLY AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S ASSESSMENT TO PRESS THAT CONFERENCE'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS STOOD AT ONLY ONE OUT OF THREE.

2. KUME STATED THAT THUS FAR, ONLY MOFA LOS SPECIALISTS

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WERE REALLY FOCUSING ON EVENTS IN GENEVA. AFTER INITIAL SPATE OF EDITORIALS AT OPENING OF SEVENTH SESSION, JAPANESE MEDIA HAD BY AND LARGE IGNORED CONFERENCE WHILE SENIOR RANKS OF GOJ HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH MORE PRESSING AND IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS (NARITA AIRPORT, SENKAKUS DISPUTE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS).

3. KUME SPECULATED THAT ALTHOUGH EVENTUAL FAILURE OF SEVENTH SESSION MIGHT INCREASE INTEREST AND PRESSURE AMONG SELECTED LDP AND DSP POLITICIANS FOR JAPANESE DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION, IT WAS STILL UNLIKELY THERE WOULD BE RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARD ANY UNILATERAL JAPANESE ACTION IN THIS FIELD. JAPANESE CONCERN OVER THIRD WORLD CRITICISM AND POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST SUCH MOVE, KUME EXPLAINED, REMAINED POWERFUL INHIBITING FACTOR. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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